THE

CHARACTER

OF

Her late MAJESTY

Queen *Caroline.*

[Price One Shilling.]

AN

ESSAY

Towards the

CHARACTER

OF

Her late MAJESTY

CAROLINE,

Queen-Consort of *Great Britain*, &c.

LONDON:

Printed for J. and P. KNAPTON, at the *Crown* in *Ludgate-Street*, 1738.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

AN

ESSAY,

&c.

THE following pages contain only what the Title profeſſes, an *attempt* to give the Public ſome Idea of the Virtues and Perfections of the late QUEEN.

What is commonly ſaid of the human Countenance, is alſo true of the human Mind; that there are not two throughout the whole compaſs of life which are exactly alike, and do not differ in one Article or other: And therefore CHARACTERS, like Pictures, ſhould be drawn in ſuch a Manner, that the Perſons intended to be repreſented by them may be known at ſight, by all their acquaintance; which can only be done by ſtrongly marking thoſe peculiarities of Genius, Diſpoſition,

or Temper, whereby every one is diſtinguiſhed from the reſt of the Species. And it may truly be affirmed that Her late MAJESTY, excelled in many particulars, any one of which would have done credit to the times in which ſhe lived.

THE virtues and great qualities of Princes are generally celebrated in their life-time, with all the advantages that wit and learning can give them. Nothing that is commendable will be loſt in ſuch hands, and it is well, if what is really valuable, be not rendred doubtful by flattery or fiction. For Perſons of indigent fortunes or corrupt minds, ſeldom loſe any opportunities of making their court to thoſe who have the diſtribution of honor, wealth or power. And yet in the preſent inſtance it is very remarkable, that many of the Queen's peculiar Excellencies have never been mentioned, either by thoſe, who liſt every good quality in the ſervice of their patron; or thoſe who knew her well, and meant only to give all due honor to her Virtues.

FEW Perſons are ſo uniform in their conduct, or ſo ſuperior in their abilities or virtues,

as

as to allow of too near a Scrutiny either into the one, or the other; which is the reaſon why every one ſhould be viewed at ſome particular diſtance. But it appears to the admiration even of thoſe who ſaw her at all times and ſeaſons, and in every hour when the Mind is moſt unguarded, that her Majeſty was always in a very eminent manner the ſame great and good Perſon.

THE Characters of Princes are for many reaſons commonly mounted up far above their deſerts; and the reports that are made from diſtant places ſwell their virtues ſtill more; which, contrary to the nature of viſible Objects, generally dwindle as we approach towards them; and as often ſhrink to nothing, when we have an opportunity of coming near enough for an impartial examination: Whereas here we meet with the reverſe; for the virtues of this Princeſs were many of them concealed with as much art, as if they had been her reproach; and ſome of thoſe things which have been imputed to her for failings and blemiſhes, are now the confeſſed beauties and ornaments of her Character.

And it muſt alſo be conſidered, that ſome of her moſt amiable qualities cannot be freely deſcribed nor repreſented in their proper light for want of ſuch circumſtances and facts as belonged to her private life, and are too nearly intermixed with the concerns of that SACRED PERSON, whoſe hiſtory we hope is reſerved to a very diſtant period of time.

I am very ſenſible that more injury cannot be done to the Memory of this Great Perſonage, than by tarniſhing the praiſes that are due to her, with any appearance of flattery. For which reaſon I ſhall be careful not to mention a ſingle circumſtance, but what can be atteſted by a number of Perſons of undoubted honor and integrity. And as I can only pretend to draw the outlines of a character (which Decency would have forbidden, if the ſubject of it had been living) I hope it will be a means of encouraging ſome able pen to raiſe a Monument to her glory, which may eaſily vie with all the boaſted names of Antiquity; a Monument that will ſurvive the injuries of time, and grow ſtronger with years, when the infamous libels of the preſent age,

with

with all their mean and wicked Authors ſhall have periſhed together.

HER MAJESTY was great by Birth and Education as well as natural and acquired abilities; for ſhe was of the Houſe of *Brandenburg*, one of the moſt ancient and illuſtrious Families in *Europe*; and received her education from the late Queen of *Pruſſia*, to whom ſhe was indebted for many of thoſe advantages, which opened the way to the honors and diſtinctions that were afterwards paid to her ſingular Merit.

SHE had a ready and quick Apprehenſion, a lively and ſtrong Imagination, with a large compaſs of thought. She excelled in an uncommon turn for converſation, aſſiſted by a natural vivacity, and very peculiar talents for mirth and humour; and by her skill in ſeveral languages, had an art of compounding words and phraſes, that were more expreſſive of her ideas than any other; and a great proof of the power and force of her genius. She loved a repartee; was happy in making one herſelf, and bearing it from others. And as this talent

was

was rendred not only inoffenſive, but amiable by the greateſt good nature and chearfulneſs of diſpoſition, which are ſomewhere very properly ſtiled *the ornaments of virtue*; ſhe was, (without reſpect to the dignity of her rank) the life of every company, and the delight of all that had the honor to approach her.

HER Memory was very good, and of ſingular uſe in her high ſtation; for ſhe was exact in her knowledge of the Characters and Merits of Perſons; and well skilled in the hiſtory and genealogies of the conſiderable families, in this, and moſt other Countries in *Europe*.

SHE had ſo penetrating and ſearching a genius, and ſo true an underſtanding of the nature and manners of the world, that ſhe ſeldom failed of making a true judgment of the characters of thoſe who came within the reach of her obſervation; which enabled her to make the proper uſe of them, according to their different tempers, diſpoſitions, or ſtudies.

And tho' it generally requires much care and reſolution to govern any extraordinary degree

degree of life and ſpirit, ſhe had no pains of that ſort to overcome; having been bleſſed with a natural ſerenity, and calmneſs of mind that was inexpreſſible, and is hardly ever accompanied with ſuch an uncommon ſhare of vivacity; but in Her had ſo much the aſcendant, that it was invariably the ſame, and remained with her to the laſt moment of life. So that ſhe had reaſon to expreſs her thankfulneſs to GOD, as ſhe often did, that He had given her a temper which enabled her to ſupport every difficulty. And it is indeed a diſpoſition of mind more immediately uſeful to Princes, not only on their own account, but as it contributes to the eaſe and happineſs of all that have the honor of being in their Service.

This Gentleneſs of nature ſhewed itſelf in every inſtance both in public and private, and inclined her to ſtudy all the ways of making herſelf agreeable, and of ſuiting her diſcourſe to the Perſons with whom ſhe converſed. But tho' her general manner of receiving Company in public was very obliging and gracious, ſhe knew how to diſtinguiſh perſons of real merit, and had an effectual way of making thoſe, for

whom

whom ſhe had any particular regard, fully ſenſible of the diſtinction ſhe made.

And I am ſure I ſpeak the ſenſe of every one that was admitted to any degree of confidence with her, in ſaying that what appeared to ſome, to be mere art, and the addreſs of a court, flowed from her natural humour; and that there never was a perſon of a more undiſguiſed temper in theſe articles, or that was more of a-piece through all the varieties of life. For the ſame ſoftneſs of behaviour and the ſame command of herſelf, that appeared in the Drawing-room, went along with her into her private apartments, and gladden'd every body that was about her down to the meaneſt attendant. It not only accompanied her in the gay and chearful ſeaſons of life, but was equally ſtrong in the moſt trying circumſtances, and even in the hour of death itſelf.

THIS naturally leads us to a view of what may be called her *Cardinal* virtues; her comprehenſive benevolence, and compaſſionate regard to the wants and diſtreſſes of human Life; which are virtues and dignities of the

the mind, that (my Lord *Bacon* obſerves) *admit no exceſs but Error.* And if the greateſt happineſs any perſon is capable of, conſiſts in a conſciouſneſs of the moſt extenſive good-will to mankind, nobody could have a better title to it. For the warmth and goodneſs of Her Heart irreſiſtibly broke out on every occaſion, and on ſubjects of every kind; and may have carried Her on, to endeavour to ſerve Others, when it was not always practicable; an inconvenience, which is the common effect of ſuch Excellencies in a Character.

SHE took infinite pleaſure in amuſing herſelf with the ſportings and innocence of young children; and always appeared to be in her proper element, when ſhe was giving any proofs of an humane and tender diſpoſition, which ſhe extended with the ſame openneſs of heart to all, whoſe circumſtances required it. For Her natural feelings for the pains and diſtreſſes of others are not to be deſcribed. They were ſo ſtrong, that ſhe became a fellow-ſufferer with them, and made their caſes ſo much her own, that it is altogether unaccountable, how one that was removed ſo far out of the reach of the common wants of life, ſhould be

more warmly touched with a compaſſionate ſenſe of them, than is to be met with amongſt perſons from whoſe ſituation and circumſtances we naturally expect the deepeſt impreſſions of this Sort. — A Leſſon of the greateſt uſe to mankind, if perſons of the firſt diſtinction would learn from hence; that when they harden their hearts, and ſhut their eyes and ears to the complaints of the diſtreſſed, they loſe the moſt exquiſite pleaſure human nature is capable of enjoying, and make their ſuperiority, what we too often find it, a ſnare to themſelves, and a grievance to the reſt of the world.

HER Charities, the natural conſequence of ſuch virtues, were limited only by her Revenue. And of all the loads of infamy which the preſs has produced in the preſent age, there is none more worthy of the abhorrence of a good Mind, than the inſinuations which have been thrown out againſt this part of her character; becauſe they were calculated to deſtroy her good name, and leſſen that juſt influence which theſe virtues naturally gave her, over the wiſe and reputable part of mankind.

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Her Charities were more numerous, and larger in proportion, than moſt of thoſe that have been ſo extravagantly celebrated through the world. And all her income, over and above the neceſſary expences of her family, was laid out in employing great numbers of the poorer ſort in works of very different kinds; or in relieving the various diſtreſſes of life. Her bounty was given in the moſt impartial manner to perſons of different ſects and parties; but her principal regards were paid to ſuch as were in the greateſt diſtreſs; to thoſe who were under a diſability of receiving a maintenance from the public; as well as to the widows and children of clergymen or officers, whoſe families by their deaths, were reduced at once from a ſtate of plenty to a want of the common neceſſaries of life.

To theſe and every other kind of indigence, that had the leaſt plea of merit joined to it, her hand and her heart were always open. For ſhe knew of no value in money, but what ariſes from the preſent uſe of it; and was never more obliged to any one than for a noble occaſion of exerting her liberality. And when ſhe was applied to by perſons nearly concerned

in behalf of their friends, ſhe has entred into all their grief with the greateſt generoſity of mind; anſwered their requeſts with an Air of ſatisfaction and gladneſs; and always endeavoured to convince them, that they could not recommend themſelves more to her eſteem, than by giving ſuch proofs of a compaſſionate and affectionate nature.

She avoided all appearance of ſhew and oſtentation ſo much, that many perſons who ſubſiſted by her bounty were wholly ignorant of their Benefactor; and ſhe was ſo liberal in her charities that her publick and private liſts with the occaſional ſums expended on the ſame account, amounted to near a *fifth* part of her whole Income.

THESE moral Perfections were ſeated in a clear and undiſturbed mind, not ruffled by paſſions, nor ſowred by diſappointments; by which means ſhe appeared to enjoy the greater part of her life with a reliſh unknown to narrow ſpirits; who have no taſte of rational pleaſures; and loſe the enjoyment of what they poſſeſs, in purſuit of what they have not.

AND now if we take a view of this excellent Perſon in the other parts of her conduct, we ſhall find her ſtill greater in herſelf than in the outward diſtinctions of life.

FOR ſhe had a ſtrength of underſtanding and preſence of mind, which accompanied her in all her actions; and ſecured her againſt being ſurprized with ſudden events, or behaving unequally under them; of both which ſhe has given many unexampled proofs.

The ſame dignity of Soul enabled her to overlook injuries, and to bear up with patience and reſolution againſt undeſerved calumny or reproach. But ſhe always coveted the eſteem of worthy perſons; and whenever ſhe had been miſrepreſented by ſuch, uſed to "wiſh that they had known her better." For ſhe frequently expreſſed herſelf not only with regard and kindneſs, but a degree of reverence for characters of diſtinguiſhed virtue and goodneſs. And as to the ill treatment ſhe met with from others of a contrary ſtamp, ſhe received it for the moſt part with the greateſt indifference, and endured it as the neceſſary tax on her

her ſtation and merit, referring herſelf and her cauſe with ſilent and humble confidence to that Being whom ſhe made her *refuge and ſtrength.*

In matters of the lighteſt moment ſhe had ſo entire a command of herſelf, that whenever ſhe pleaſed, ſhe ſeemed to enjoy even trifles, as if ſhe was quite unbent, and had nothing elſe to attend; and in every circumſtance of behaviour that came under the notice of others, ſhe gave herſelf up to it; and appeared in it with the ſame readineſs, as if it was the one only thing in which ſhe excelled.

And it were to be wiſhed for *our* ſakes, ſhe had not carried this power over her own conduct ſo far in other particulars. For ſhe ſeldom attended to any warnings of an approaching illneſs; but either for fear of alarming HIM whoſe happineſs was bound up in hers; or from too much dependance on her conſtitution; would appear in public with the ſame outward chearfulneſs, when ſhe was in exceſs of pain and anguiſh, as if ſhe had been perfectly at her eaſe: Which, joined to a peculiar delicacy ſhe had in the frame of her mind, too

frequently

frequently endangered a life of ineſtimable value to the World.

THIS ſovereign command of her thoughts, words and actions, had its foundation in an heart always devoted to great and noble deſigns. Her Genius tower'd over all. For by many circumſtances it is evident that ſhe had a capacity for executing grand and princely ſchemes. And when His Majeſty's Commands required an application of theſe high qualities to the government of a Kingdom, ſhe joined to them a skill and prudence that would have adorned the character of the moſt able and experienced ſtateſman.

THE extenſive knowledge ſhe had in matters of a philoſophical nature, the time ſhe ſpent in reading and converſing about them, and the regard ſhe manifeſted for the memory of thoſe eminent writers that had brought new light into theſe ſubjects, have given great credit to thoſe ſtudies. And ſhe has been ſo juſtly celebrated by ſome of the moſt admired names of our country on this account, that it will be in vain to attempt to give the publick any higher impreſſions of this part of her character

racter with which they are ſo well acquainted, and which will convey her name down to poſterity with glory and honor.

The uſe ſhe made of theſe advantages was to enable her to diſcharge the duties of an high ſtation, like One that was to give an account of her actions to God; and ſhe conſidered the more envied circumſtances of life, with an indifference that made it perfectly eaſy to her to part with them. Theſe things which filled the mouths of the philoſophers, poſſeſſed the heart of this excellent Princeſs. She engrafted them into her life, and contracted ſuch a diſlike to all uſeleſs reading, that ſhe began to be weary even of hiſtorical peices from the uncertainty and partiality with which they are commonly written; and could hardly prevail with herſelf of late to ſpend her thoughts on any ſubjects, but ſuch as were of the more ſerious and religious turn. For having had large experience of all the joys that can be had from the utmoſt points of honor, eſteem and power, and whatever elſe is moſt valued by the world, ſhe was capable of determining upon them with great judiciouſneſs; and did accordingly make ſuch reflections as

ſufficiently

ſufficiently ſhewed her ſenſe of what ſhe called the *mere nothingneſs of human life.*

THE many virtues and graces of her life prove her religion to have been what an Apoſtle ſtiles, *pure and undefiled before God, by viſiting the fatherleſs and widows in their affliction, and keeping herſelf unſpotted from the world.* And in all her words and actions, ſhe declared herſelf to be on the moſt reaſonable conviction, a ſincere chriſtian, a zealous Proteſtant, a real friend to the Church of *England*, and a conſtant Protector of the rights of mankind, in oppoſition to tyranny of every ſort.

She was well acquainted with the beſt arguments to ſupport her principles, and gave an early proof of her ſteady adherence to the Proteſtant cauſe, by refuſing to enter into a treaty of marriage with the preſent Emperor, when he was King of *Spain*; a circumſtance which is ſo well known amongſt us, that I need only remark upon it, She was reſerved for our happineſs to be the ornament of a Country where religion and government receive their beſt ſupport from liberty and truth.

BUT of all the particulars of her Life, there was none more extraordinary than her method of dividing time, which enabled her to go through ſuch a variety of affairs, not only without hurry and confuſion, but with more eaſe and readineſs than can eaſily be conceived by thoſe, who had not the proper opportunities of making the obſervation.

And indeed this will appear incredible to ſuch as are unacquainted with the art of applying every minute to its proper uſes; for generally ſpeaking, they find leaſt leiſure for buſineſs, whoſe time lies heavy on their hands. The order and method which the diligent and active are obliged to obſerve in the conduct of their affairs, bring things into a narrower compaſs, and do in effect carry with them the bleſſings of a long life, by enabling men to live as much again in the ſame ſpace of time. And it ſeems to be one of the curſes of affluence and fortune to make men idle and uſeleſs; that they ſhould have a greater ſtock of time in hand than they know how to employ; So that they may be ſaid to ſhorten their lives, and not *live out half their days*. A Reflection, that

that is as full of honor to this great Queen, as it is of ſhame and reproach to an age that has made but little uſe of ſo glorious an example!

She was frequently engaged in reading ſuch Books as are rarely attempted but by perſons of much leiſure and retirement, whoſe thoughts are not taken up with any of the cares or ſollicitudes of the world. And we are aſſured, by a great authority, that her knowledge was very *particular and uncommon, even in matters of the niceſt, and moſt abſtract Speculation.* She acquainted herſelf with every valuable book that was publiſhed; ſhe granted Audiences to all that had any wants to ſupply; ſhe gave herſelf up at certain hours to the amuſements of a court; but was ſo totally void of all concern for the ornaments of dreſs, that it could hardly be ſaid to take up any portion of her time.

She converſed in private with perſons of all the different turns of genius in the whole compaſs of arts and ſciences; and with a few whom ſhe honored with a more particular regard, ſhe entred into all the freedoms of private and familiar life; and ſhewed that ſhe could let herſelf down from her dignity, as if

ſhe had never poſſeſſed it; and could reſume it again, as if ſhe had never parted with it. And tho' the more public parts of her character will make the greateſt figure in hiſtory; they who were beſt acquainted with her know, that there were more charms in her *private* converſation, and more merit in any one of the ſilent virtues of her domeſtic life, than in all thoſe that are the common ſubjects of admiration.

She made theſe various employments of immediate uſe in the education of her children, who were almoſt always under her eye; for they lived with her, and about her a great part of the day; and received the benefit of every circumſtance that aroſe in converſation or otherwiſe, which could be applied to their improvement and happineſs. — For ſhe was their inſtructor, their friend and companion, as well as their moſt indulgent parent.

She directed their behaviour, formed their manners, taught them how to rule their paſſions, and governed them with ſo much wiſdom, as to be entirely beloved by them: For their greateſt delight was in her company, and they

they dreaded nothing ſo much as her diſpleaſure.

Her heart was ſo rightly turned to this great duty of nature, that ſhe could temper her reproofs at one and the ſame time with a mixture of ſeverity and ſweetneſs, which gave her an abſolute and irreſiſtible authority over them. And ſhe highly deſerved their moſt dutiful regards; for ſhe thought no pains too much for their inſtruction, and gave herſelf up to every thought that could be turned to their advantage.

What a misfortune is it to our country that ſo illuſtrious an example, which has been publickly known, and univerſally admired amongſt us for above twenty years together, ſhould not have had weight enough to bring an employment of the greateſt importance into more faſhion and credit; an employment in itſelf the moſt honourable, and in its conſequences the moſt uſeful of any in the world. And it is impoſſible not to reflect, with the utmoſt degree of grief and indignation, on the melancholy ſtate of ſuch times, when Parents of rank are grown ſo degenerate and have ſo little regard to their own honor, or the happineſs of

their

their children, as by leaving them in the hands of their Servants, to ſuffer them to receive their earlieſt impreſſions from thoſe, who are commonly taken from the dregs of the people.

BUT the tenderneſs which the Queen had for her royal offspring, together with all other regards were ſwallowed up in her *conjugal* virtues, and her devotion to the KING. Her ſoul was entirely poſſeſſed with her duty, affection and attachment to him; and ſuch was her whole conduct, that it was hardly poſſible to diſtinguiſh at any time, whether ſhe was conſulting his inclinations or her own. She declared herſelf "under the higheſt obligations to Him for having made her the "happieſt woman in the world, and that "though her children were entirely dear, they "were not as a grain of ſand to her, in compariſon of Him." For all her thoughts were bent on promoting his ſatisfactions, and eaſing the cares of his royal Breaſt; all her actions were directed with a view to His honor; and all her hours were given up to his diſpoſal.

MOST

MOST of the diſtinguiſhed characters in hiſtory owe their ornaments and graces to a thirſt of *Fame*, which was the probable reaſon of their moſt celebrated actions; but when the virtues of this Princeſs come to be ſeen in their true light, ſhe will be found to have been ſo void of this paſſion, that on the contrary, ſhe ſacrificed all her intereſt with the Great, and her reputation with the Many, to her duty to the King, her love to her children, and her regard to the public welfare.

She neglected appearances ſo much, that ſhe uſed frequently to ſay "that her true cha-"racter would never be known till after her "death." She preferred the inward approbation of her own mind to the applauſe of the world; and valued things as they appeared to her in the eye of reaſon, and not according to the rate that was ſet upon them by others.

She was very fond of what one of her favourite Authors ſays on this ſubject, * "that "a thirſt after glory is founded in Ambition "and Vanity; that to diſcerning men, Fame it-"ſelf is a mere dream, a ſtupid deluſion, and

* Wollaſton's *Religion of Nature*, &c.

"but

" but the next remove from nothing; that it " is beſtowed on men thro' ignorance, par- " tiality or ſelfiſh views, on account of ſuch " things as would be a diſgrace to ſavages, " — or ſuch as at beſt have no real merit in " them: That this boaſted immortality amounts " to no more, than that ſomebody conquered " ſomebody, becauſe the perpetuating of the " bare name can be nothing to the man to " whom it once belonged."

What confirmed her in theſe reflections, was that this very Fame (as poor a buſineſs as it is) is often grounded either on falſe facts, or miſtaken ones; which in her own caſe ſhe profeſſed to have frequently experienced, by finding herſelf extolled and flattered at ſome times for actions, that were either of an indifferent nature, or diſliked by herſelf; and cenſured at others for the moſt commendable and diſintereſted parts of her conduct. So that when it is conſidered that her very neglect of Fame aroſe from a nobleneſs of heart, and a diſregard of all cenſure, in thoſe who ſee only the outſide of things; and that ſhe was willing to wait for her reward from that Being *who ſeeth in ſecret*; her character will be the more illuſ-

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trious, on account of thoſe very circumſtances which ſeem to have ſhaded it; and She will appear to all Poſterity to have been one of the firſt perſons of the Country, Age, and Station, in which ſhe lived.

If any additional light can be wanting to give us a clearer idea of this incomparable Princeſs, it will be abundantly ſupplied from her inimitable behaviour and conduct throughout the laſt melancholy ſcene of her life, every article of which deſerves to be recorded in indelible characters. As the whole paſſed under the eye and obſervation of many perſons, it is to be hoped they will not ſuffer the leaſt circumſtance of all the wiſdom, and piety, and greatneſs of ſoul, which ſhe manifeſted in that ſeaſon, to be forgotten. And it muſt be an inexpreſſible ſatisfaction to thoſe who honored her when living, and lament her dead, to have ſo many undoubted evidences of the greateſt virtue, as are more than enough to ſtifle the feeble and ungenerous attacks of party-rage; which, like the Inquiſition, puts every virtue to the queſtion, and racks and tortures the moſt amiable qualities of the human Mind.

WHEREVER there has been room for it, the characters of men have always been formed from their behaviour at the time of their death, when it is juſtly preſumed every diſguiſe is laid aſide: Upon this bottom, the zealots of many religious profeſſions have endeavoured to ſecure to themſelves the credit of a dying adverſary, whoſe whole life perhaps was one continued warfare againſt them.

And here we have an inſtance of an happy combination of all that is great and good without the common mixture of failings and infirmities, uniformly worked up in life and death to a greater pitch of perfection than we have any account of in all the volumes of Antiquity.

A memorable action or ſaying, which might be the work only of one hour's wiſdom or ſteadineſs, is handed down to all poſterity as worthy of having the *whole* character denominated from it; whereas here we behold a Great QUEEN racked with the extremity of pain and miſery, with very little intermiſſion for twelve days and nights; and enduring it not only with patience and ſubmiſſion, but almoſt without a groan; all along maintaining

taining, thro' a ſeries of ſuffering, her temper; her virtue; her real ſubmiſſion to the ways of Providence; her dignity and greatneſs of Soul. ——

THROUGH the whole courſe of her illneſs ſhe gave proofs of her uſual chearfulneſs; and tried to ſupport the ſpirits of thoſe that were about her, by exerting it to the laſt. She did not conſider death in any other light, than as if it had been a common occurrence, in which there was nothing that ought to give any diſturbance to One that had fixed her hope on another life.

And from the general turn of her converſation a few months paſt; as well as ſome remarkable expreſſions that ſhe uſed; and an uncommon thoughtfulneſs, which, as it were, ſtole upon her countenance more frequently of late; it looked, as if ſhe apprehended that her life would not be of long continuance; which evidently grew to be her fixed opinion as her Illneſs increaſed upon her. She did not manifeſt the leaſt deſire of life from the beginning of her confinement; but when ſhe obſerved the anxiety of her friends, ſhe reſolved to do that for their ſakes, which ſhe could not

be prevailed on to do for her own; and ſaid, "ſhe thought it was worth while to endea-"vour to preſerve a life, that ſhe found was ſo "dear to his Majeſty, and his Royal Iſſue."

ON the ſecond day of her illneſs ſhe was obſerved to ſhed ſome tears; occaſioned either by lowneſs of ſpirits, or drawn from her by the tenderneſs of thoſe that were deareſt to her: But ſhe ſoon recovered her uſual firmneſs, and maintained the dignity of her mind, without any emotion, or interruption, to the hour of her death.

I believe it may be affirmed, that none of the Phyſicians or Surgeons, or other attendants upon her, ever beheld ſuch an example of patience, and fortitude of mind, and of entire ſubmiſſion to the will of God. And in one of the painful operations ſhe underwent, being apprehenſive that ſhe had expreſſed her ſelf with a little uneaſineſs, though it was hardly obſerved, ſhe ſaid with concern that "ſhe feared ſhe had ſhewed more im-"patience, than ſhe ought to have done."

In all this melancholy ſcene She behaved with the ſame civility and courteouſneſs at all times to every one that was about her; which

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was a circumſtance of greatneſs, that one of the Phyſicians obſerved, he had never met with in the whole courſe of his practice. She was continually manifeſting the goodneſs of her heart, and expreſſing her thankful and conſiderate ſenſe of the laborious watchings and fatigues of her attendants; which ſhe did with the moſt proper and diſtinguiſhing regards to each of them.

And it ought to be remembred, that this obliging manner of behaviour was not of that ſort, which mechanically flows from conſtitution or habit; but was ſuited ſo exactly to the circumſtances both of the perſons to whom ſhe ſpake, and the opportunities ſhe took for the purpoſe, as ſhewed ſhe was abſolute miſtreſs of herſelf; and could judge of all proprieties as much in her laſt hours, as others can when their heads and hearts are moſt at eaſe.

Her calmneſs and quietneſs of ſpirit (the milder beauties of her character) remained the ſame thro' all the changes of her diſtemper; and enabled her with the greateſt conſtancy of mind, and compoſure of behaviour to diſcharge the duties that were neareſt her heart; whilſt

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every one around her was tranſported with agonies of grief and confuſion.

Not one repining word, not one unguarded expreſſion came from her; but on the contrary, She was full of patience and reſignation in the midſt of her pains, and as full of gratitude for the leaſt abatement of them. She conſidered herſelf as under more eminent obligations to her maker than the reſt of the world; and was always recounting to herſelf and others, the many providences ſhe had received during her whole life.

She ſpent the tedious hours of her ſickneſs in conſidering what remained for her to do, that might teſtify the ſtrength of her affection to the King, or might beſt diſcharge the laſt duties of a Chriſtian, a Mother, a Miſtreſs, or a Friend: Of all which the * Great Prelate (who aſſiſted Her in religious offices, and prayed with Her twice a Day for ſome time before ſhe died) received the fulleſt ſatisfaction; as he had often done before, in many diſtinct converſations with Her on theſe, and other important points.

* His Grace the Archbiſhop of *Canterbury*.

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Her thoughts were frequently lifted up to Heaven; and ſhe poured out her ſoul ſeveral times in a day, in the moſt reaſonable, devout, and affecting terms. Her Prayers were generally pronounced in an audible manner, and ſhewed ſuch clearneſs of underſtanding, ſuch ſtrength of mind, and ſuch judiciouſneſs in her choice of matter, that ſhe ſeemed to be wholly undiſturbed with her pains, as if ſhe had been quite at eaſe, and delivered from the fetters of the body. So that ſhe made her very ſufferings inſtructive to all about her, who were ſo deeply affected with them, that it is probable Time itſelf will not be able to blot out the mournful remembrance of them. She prayed in a diſtinct manner for the King, for All her children, and for the Publick; and ſuited her petitions to their different circumſtances, and the reſpective relations ſhe ſtood in to them.

She took a ſeparate and ſolemn leave of His Majesty and her family more frequently than human nature could well go through with; which was occaſioned by the various turns of hope and fear, that prevailed in their minds at different times. And the dignity

nity and eaſe with which ſhe behaved; the innocence with which ſhe ſpoke; the proper and affectionate advice ſhe gave to her children, the earneſt manner in which ſhe recommended unanimity, and mutual affection to them; the uſeful leſſons ſhe delivered to every one about her; and the inexpreſſible marks of her duty and tenderneſs for that Royal Perſon, to whom ſhe owed the happineſs and honors of her life, were ſo affecting and powerful, that it was no wonder, if They who found themſelves on the point of loſing more bleſſings by her death than they could hope to repair, ſhould be overwhelmed with ſorrow and concern.

And as if She was the Only One in the Royal Palace that had the command of herſelf, ſhe had the reſolution to avoid every occaſion of repeating the mournful ceremonies of an eternal farewel, by declining to ſpeak more than was neceſſary for the two laſt Days of her life.

AMIDST all the important concerns that poſſeſſed her Soul, nothing is more worthy of admiration, or a more infallible proof of the humane and beneficent turn of her mind, than

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her laſt remembrances of every one for whom ſhe had any regard; which were ſo particular that there are reaſons to think ſhe did not forget one, but took ſome occaſion or other, in the courſe of her illneſs, to ſpeak of them all with proper kindneſs. She recommended her Servants in the moſt affecting and ſolemn manner to His Majeſty's favour and protection; and extended her concern down to the loweſt of them, and was equally warm in her ſollicitude for their welfare; recounting to him the faithfulneſs of their reſpective ſervices, and omitting nothing which ſhe thought could be of uſe to them. Some of them have had the honor of attending her above twenty years; and it will not be improper in this place to obſerve, that as the Queen had all the virtues of private, as well as public life, no one in a great ſtation ever enjoyed more of the advantages of it. For no Perſons in private life ever thought themſelves happier than ſhe did, in the faithfulneſs, truth and honor, of ſome that have been admitted to the freedoms of her converſation, as well as others that were in her ſervice.

And they who had the happineſs of being witneſſes of the inimitable Manner in which ſhe cloſed her life, will never forget the frequent declarations ſhe made, when the hopes and fears of this world were at an end with her; namely, "That ſhe had made it the "buſineſs of her life to diſcharge her duty to "God and Man in the beſt manner ſhe was "able; that as ſhe had no heavy burden up-"on her Conſcience, ſhe hoped God would "pardon her infirmities, and accept of the ſin-"cerity of her endeavors, which were always "intended to promote the King's honor, and "the proſperity of the Kingdom; that ſhe "was a hearty well-wiſher to the Liberties of "the Nation; that if ſhe had been miſtaken "in any part of her conduct, it was from an "error of her judgment, not her will; "that ſhe could not charge herſelf with a "thought of having unjuſtly given an hour's "pain to any one perſon in the world; and "that ſhe had ſtudied all the means that were "in her power of contributing to the happi-"neſs of the Royal Family, and ſtrengthning

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" the common intereſt of all that wiſh well to " the King's Government."

A little before ſhe died, ſhe ſaid to a Phyſician, *How long can this laſt?* and on his anſwering, *Your Majeſty will ſoon be eaſed of your pains*; ſhe replied, *the ſooner the better.* After this ſhe repeated a prayer of her own compoſing, in which there was ſuch a flow of natural eloquence as amazed the By-ſtanders, and demonſtrated the power and vigour of a great and good Mind.

But the laſt period of this melancholy ſcene is yet to come: For, when her ſpeech began to faulter, and ſhe was thought expiring, ſhe ſummoned all her ſtrength, and all the powers of her departing ſpirit, to aſſiſt her for one glorious moment; that ſhe might make her end to her immortal honor, in a manner worthy of a good chriſtian, and worthy of her ſelf. For this purpoſe ſhe deſired to be raiſed up in her bed, and fearing that nature would not hold out long enough without artificial ſupports, ſhe called to have water thrown on her, and a little after deſired it might be repeated; by which means having gathered up

ſome ſpirit, She, with the greateſt compoſure and preſence of mind, requeſted her weeping Royal Relations to " kneel down and pray for " Her"; which they immediately did. And, whilſt they were reading ſome Prayers, as well as circumſtances of ſuch unutterable diſtreſs would permit; ſhe ſaid, *pray aloud that I may hear*; and after the *Lord's Prayer* was concluded, in which ſhe joined as well as ſhe could, ſhe ſaid *SO*; and (waving her hand) with the utmoſt tranquility lay down, and gave up the ghoſt.

THUS died a Princeſs, who, if we conſider all the circumſtances of her ſtation, abilities, temper and conduct, was undoubtedly the glory of our age, and an ornament to human nature itſelf. For if we view her in poſſeſſion of every worldly honor; adorned with every amiable quality; placed in the eye of the whole world; and afterwards behold the ſame Perſon putting in practice all the philoſophy of the ſevereſt moraliſts; inſtructing thoſe that were about her in the moſt uſeful manner; uttering nothing that was unbecoming a wiſe and good Chriſtian under the ſharpeſt Sufferings,

ings, and bearing them with invincible patience and fortitude for many days together; wholly undiſmayed at the ſight of death; and even meeting it with an air of ſatisfaction, tho' ſhe was to be parted from thoſe whom ſhe moſt tenderly loved: — If all theſe circumſtances be conſidered, we ſhould rather be inclined to think that ſhe was the Repreſentative of ſome character, drawn for the admiration of mankind, than that any one could really be what ſhe was.

And it will be no wonder if the whole of this amazing ſcene, of which I only pretend to give an imperfect sketch, ſhould appear viſionary to thoſe who were at a diſtance from it; becauſe *even* they who attended her through all the painful ſtages of her laſt illneſs, and were beſt acquainted with her Excellencies; cannot reflect on her continued Sufferings, and all her Behaviour under them, without the greateſt degree of aſtoniſhment.

If we were to indulge our minds in giving way to ſuch melancholy apprehenſions as this ſubject would naturally ſuggeſt to us, there would

would be no end: For She was All we could wiſh for in every relation of life, and was removed from our hopes and expectations, when ſhe was capable of doing the moſt good; when her faculties were ſtrong and vigorous, and by the courſe of nature might have continued ſo for a long term of years.

To Her indeed the *day of Death*, was *better than the day of one's birth.* For it carried Her beyond the ſtrife of tongues, or the malicious ſtrokes of envenomed pens. She had made her way thro' the preſs and crowd of life, and was now arrived at that critical point which pronounced her happy, and rendred the Evening of her glorious day more illuſtrious than the Meridian of moſt of the celebrated characters in hiſtory. So that ſhe has effectually ſecured herſelf an endleſs meaſure of Fame, though ſhe never made it the object of her purſuits.

HER Houſe was both the honor and the reproach of our Country. The affluence and ſtate of great families commonly tend to cool and ſlacken their affections to each other, and make

make them induſtriouſly avoid all appearances, which may bring them to know themſelves, or remind them of the miſery or weakneſs of a mortal condition. For this reaſon they flie from the diſtreſs, ſickneſs or death, even of their neareſt relations. Whereas here we ſee a numerous Royal Family, formed by her conduct, and governed by her example, giving ſuch proofs of the true greatneſs of their own minds, and of the ſtrength of their affection to the beſt of Parents, as ſeemed to exceed the powers of nature.

They laid aſide and forgot every mark of dignity and diſtinction, when One of the principal objects of their happineſs called for their beſt offices. They watched with her in her whole illneſs; gave her all the medicines; attended her with unwearied diligence; performed every office for her; obſerved all the turns in her diſtemper with the utmoſt anxiety; entred into every circumſtance, that could enable them to give her a moments eaſe; and, contrary to the manner of the world, paid their conſtant duty to her very *Remains*, till they were removed out of their Sight.

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As this was not the glory of One only, but of All that were with her; and All vied with each other in this amiable contention, as far as they were allowed to do it on account of their health and ability; it may ſafely be affirmed, that no hiſtory can produce an inſtance of more piety in a whole family, or more honor paid to the virtues of a Parent. And the diſorder, confuſion and ſickneſs, which their grief and the fatigues they endured have brought upon them, attended with circumſtances of danger to Some, muſt for ever make them eſteemed and honored by all that have any feeling for ſuch ſingular diſtreſſes; or that can be touched with a due ſenſe of ſuch exquiſite merit.

But what ſums up her Character, is the royal teſtimony that is born to it by Him, who for above *thirty* years together, admired her Virtues; lived with her in the ſtricteſt tyes of affection and friendſhip; and now conſiders himſelf as deprived of one, that really divided the cares, and more than doubled the joys of his life.

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His heart ſwells with every tender image of her perfections, which are perpetually before his eyes. He takes every opportunity of recounting her virtues; and does it in a manner that ſhews his whole ſoul engaged in the contemplation of them. He conſiders how ſhe would have acted in every circumſtance that was within her Sphere; expreſſes a gracious regard for thoſe whom ſhe valued; and is diſpoſed to every thing that can poſſibly do honor to her Memory.

For this purpoſe He has been pleaſed to continue the ſalaries of all the officers, and menial ſervants, who are not taken into his own family; and has commanded ſuch a liſt as can be had, of her numerous Charities, to be laid before him; it being his Royal Intention that Nobody, as far as poſſible, ſhould be a ſufferer beſides Himſelf.

THESE ſhining circumſtances are all crowned with the inexpreſſible fondneſs and affection of a FATHER, who manifeſts the utmoſt ſolicitude for the welfare of his children; and from the perſuaſion he is under of their irreparable loſs, applies himſelf with great tender-

neſs to diſcharge the duty of *both* Parents; recommending the Queen's example to them, and reminding them of all that ſhe ſaid, and did, and ſuffered for their honor and happineſs.

AND if I was at liberty to go into more particulars, and deſcribe the pains and anxiety of his Royal Breaſt, ſo viſible in his whole conduct, whilſt All that He loved, and valued was in danger; the diſtraction of thought; the oppreſſion of heart; and the deluge of ſoft and tender paſſions, that broke in upon a mind, naturally fortified with the utmoſt degree of conſtancy and reſolution; while He appeared himſelf to feel all the agonies of death, when the laſt glimmering of hope was gone: If it were poſſible for all this to be freely and fully deſcribed, it would be a ſtronger motive than any that has yet been urged, to engage the moſt affectionate wiſhes and prayers of his ſubjects, for the preſervation of a PRINCE who has added to his confeſſed virtues of inflexible Probity, Juſtice, Honor and Truth, the moſt amiable proofs of his Humanity, Tenderneſs and Goodneſs of heart.

THESE

THESE are virtues which uſed to lie concealed in the private corners of the world, and are hardly ever found among thoſe who are in the higheſt points of light, and command the publick attention of Mankind; and therefore we muſt be loſt to all ſhame, if we are wanting in our proper acknowledgments of theſe uncommon merits in a Royal Family; which do ſo much real credit to our Age and Country.

But it muſt be confeſſed to the honor of human nature, that the undiſſembled grief which has appeared in *all* ranks of perſons on this moſt affecting occaſion, evidently ſhews, that true and ſolid virtue will ever be too hard for all the differing humours, intereſts and factions of the world; and that the name and honor of a truly great and good Perſon, may fairly be entruſted to the faithful keeping of poſterity.

And if the conſciouſneſs of her own innocence; the aſſurance of her being moſt beloved by thoſe to whom ſhe was moſt intimately known; and the univerſal teſtimony that was paid to her merit, could contribute any thing to her happineſs in her laſt moments,

this excellent QUEEN had all the ſatisfactions a dying hour could give: For ſhe ſaw a Great Prince moſt tenderly affected for her, and half expiring with her; attended by a numerous Iſſue ſtanding round her bed, and tranſported with all the exceſſes of grief and anxiety; — Her friends and ſervants lamenting their private loſs, as well as that of the public; — the world abroad moved with general concern; — and even her enemies (whom God forgive) for once aſhamed. —

I am perfectly aware of the deficiency of a character, that is made up only of ſuch materials as are already very well known; but till more can be had, I perſuade my ſelf it muſt be of uſe to place theſe we have, in ſuch a light, that they may be ſeen at one view. And I thought ſome public homage was immediately due to the memory of an illuſtrious Princeſs, who has left behind her an example of ſo many great and uncommon Virtues both in the public and domeſtic walk of Life: And that it would alſo be a ſeaſonable Opportunity of convincing All who are in high Stations, that nothing will paſs for great or illuſtrious, but

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what has true merit in it; and that there is no Honor in any conduct, but what is founded on the laws of Religion and Virtue.

THE greateſt and moſt deſerving Characters cannot ordinarily be viewed in their true light, till All that have been perſonally concerned are dead, and the grounds of their reſpective partialities are buried with them. But as *this* Character wants no foreign aids, and depends on its own native ſtrength, it has nothing to apprehend from the licentiouſneſs of the times; though it muſt be a real concern to all reaſonable minds, to obſerve the inhuman attempts that are made to blaſt the memory of One, whoſe NAME will live as long as Honor and Virtue have any being amongſt us.

The general diſregard of order and decency, which is the growing Evil of our days, has gradually worn out a due ſenſe of all ſubordination throughout the Kingdom, and expoſed the beſt and moſt ſacred Names to the ſcorn and inſult of the avowed enemies of our happineſs. And it were to be wiſhed, that theſe diſorders had not betrayed our countrymen into ſuch outrageous freedoms of behaviour

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and ſpeech, as muſt ſoon root out the very foundations of public Liberty, without ſome ſpeedy change in their Conduct. But it would be a ſingular happineſs indeed, if the heavy diſpenſation of Providence, we have now felt, ſhould be the occaſion of putting us on our guard; and by bringing us to a more lively ſenſe of our danger, open our eyes to all the means that are neceſſary to our common ſafety.

The general loſs we have ſuſtained ſhould naturally teach us to pay a dutiful and affectionate regard towards HIM who has felt ſo great a ſhare of it; and make us endeavour to ſoften and abate the exceſs of His grief by new efforts of our zeal for His Perſon and Government. For we cannot promiſe our ſelves more happineſs, as a People, than that his MAJESTY may reap the benefit of his Royal Virtues by a long and peaceable and happy Reign; and that under the protection of a race of Princes deſcended from Him, the preſent ineſtimable bleſſings of our Country may be enjoyed in their full extent by our lateſt Poſterity.

FINIS.